

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
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Masaaki IKAWA, et al.)	
)	
Application No.: Unassigned)	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
)	
Filed: December 23, 2003)	Examiner: Unassigned
)	
For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS)	

Commissioner for Patents
MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

A copy of each listed document is attached

The following are listed on the accompanying PTO-1449 and are in a language other than English.

a. Japanese Patent Publication No. 2-50169. The relevance of this document is discussed at page 1 of the specification of the present application.

b. Japanese Patent Publication No. 5-224476. The relevance of this document is discussed at page 1 of the specification of the present application.

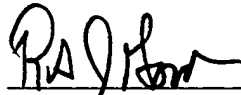
c. Japanese Patent Publication No. 6-230617. The relevance of this document is discussed at page 1 of the specification of the present application.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed document is material or constitutes "prior art." If it should be determined that the listed document does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 23, 2003

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	Applicants Masaaki IKAWA, et al.	
	Filing Date December 23, 2003	Group Unassigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	<u>Translation</u>		
						YES	NO	
	2-50169	Feb. 20, 1990	Japan				NO	
	5-224476	Sep. 3, 1993	Japan				NO	
	6-230617	Aug. 19, 1994	Japan				NO	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		

Examiner	Date Considered
Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	